The Sun.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1879.

The regular circulation of THE SUN *for the week ending Nov. 1, 1879, was:*

Sunday	127,714	Weekly	60,965
Monday	113,324	Thursday	117,787
Tuesday	118,671	Friday	117,797
Wednesday	118,515	Saturday	118,650

Total for the week 899,333

THE DEMOCRATIC OUTLOOK.

A Leading Democrat Positively Asserts that Robinson will have More than 20,000 Plurality.

ALBANY, Nov. 1.—On the eve of the election, and with nothing to gain by boasting, it is very certain that the Democratic managers expect to carry the State, and are confident that Lucius Robinson will be reëlected by a plurality of not less than 20,000. It is equally clear that this confidence is not shared in any great degree by the rank and file of the party. But there is a sullen determination exhibited by Democrats everywhere to go to the polls and vote, even though defeat should follow.

The Kelly movement has fallen to pieces during the past two weeks. Here in Albany, where its greatest strength seemed to exist, and where with apparent reason 5,000 votes were claimed for it, it will not receive more than half that number. If, with a newspaper to back them, and the leading Democrats of the city to sustain him, Mr. Kelly makes such a beggarly show in Albany, what can he expect to do in other counties? I talked with a philosophical follower of the Tammany chief yesterday, and he said: "You don't understand the meaning of this movement. Nobody ever thought seriously of John Kelly as a candidate for Governor. We gathered around him simply because for the time being he embodied the opposition to Tildenism in politics. The size of his vote will be no true measure of the extent of Democratic disaffection. If you examine the subject more closely, you will find that while the Kelly vote has diminished the Cornell vote has steadily increased. It is no secret that we set out to beat Robinson. If we find we can't do it by a simple protest inside the Democratic party, we know how we can do it—by voting straight for Cornell. I know it is a desperate remedy; but it is a desperate disease which demands it."

I gave this point to one of Gov. Robinson's warmest friends. He smiled and remarked: "It was the programme of the Kellyites from the first—that is of the leaders—to transfer their followers to Cornell on election day. Mr. Kelly's own idea was that when election day came he would have, in the city of New York, 25,000 faithful followers who would obey his commands unquestioningly. By giving their votes to Cornell he expected to receive in return 25,000 Republican votes for his county ticket. If this plan could have been carried out Cornell would have beaten Robinson in the metropolis and Roberts and Gumbleton would have been elected. But the scheme fell through because of its inherent weakness. Men who try to trade in politics must always be sure that they have the goods to deliver or they will be forced to pay the penalty of their offence. [illegible] ile game. They discovered that an alliance with the Republicans could not possibly lead to success. The moment they suggested, even to their most intimate friends, the propriety of voting for Cornell, those friends went off in high dudgeon, and declared themselves for Robinson. So, with the instinctive wisdom of practical politicians, these candidates quickly changed their tune. They went in, each man for himself, and began to make alliances with Robinson's supporters. Meantime Cornell's bargain with Kelly had disgusted a large number of Republicans, and they emphatically refused to sell out their county ticket. The result is, that with the failure of the bargains, New York politics are now in a state of chaotic confusion. But all the distracted elements of Democracy are gravitating toward Robinson, and on election day two-thirds of the Tammany men—candidates, General Committee and all—will be found working for the Governor's reëlection that they may save for themselves some share of the local offices. In Albany the attempt to transfer the Kelly vote to Cornell is doomed to failure quite as much as it is in New York. Mr. Kelly's supporters here dislike Robinson, but they hate Republicanism, and when they discover that an effort is making to sell them out they will vote the regular Democratic ticket. I can tell you frankly now that we expect to carry Albany County for Robinson by 1,200 plurality—which is substantially all that we did three years ago."

"But tell me briefly why you think Robinson will be elected?"

"Well, to begin with, our organization is very perfect this year. While our opponents have been wasting their time in idle boasts we have been at work. No man, unless he [illegible] is admitted to the secrets of our State [illegible] Committee, has any idea how thorough our canvass is. We know the situation in every school district of the State. We shall get out five per cent. more of our vote than the Republicans will of theirs. That insures us an advantage of 25,000 ballots. Then we know that there are 25,000 Republicans who will vote for Robinson. This estimate is carefully made, and is based on accurate knowledge. You can test it in any community that you please. New York city, for example, casts one-sixth of the vote of the State. Its share of Robinson Republicans would be 4,250. You can find them there beyond doubt. The share of Kings County would be 2,500 and of Albany County 850. We can show you the lists in every place, and we know they are made up of men who will stick. By getting out a larger vote than our opponents and securing this aid from the Republicans, we gain such advantages that the Kelly defection ceases to be formidable, even if Kelly should poll 50,000 votes. You must bear in mind that when a full vote is cast, as it was in 1876, the State is Democratic by more than 30,000 majority."

"But the Republicans are even more confident of electing Cornell than you are of electing Robinson. How do you account for that?"

"I think their confidence is a reminiscence rather than a reality. They started out firm in the belief that John Kelly had split the Democratic party, and that all they had to do was to go in between two opposing factions and carry off the cake. Now those of them who are not wilfully blind begin to see that the Democratic party is not split, but that there is a defection in the Republican ranks of far greater proportions than the Kelly bolt. But the hopes of Cornell's friends were raised so high early in the campaign, that they are loth to admit, on the eve of the election, that they are beaten. They are in the position that the Democrats were in 1872. We trusted then to Republican divisions to elect our candidates, and found on election day that it was not the Republicans but the Democrats who were divided. We had an inkling of what was going to happen that year as early as September, but our 'midsummer madness' was so great that we continued to blow our empty horn till the ides of November silenced us. You can see the same thing now among our opponents. They stubbornly refuse to believe that there is any Republican opposition to Cornell. They see 5,000 'scratchers' under the lead of George William Curtis in New York and Brooklyn, and they solemnly assert that there are only 500 of them. They get word from the country towns that a certain number of farmers have resolved to vote for Robinson, and they sit down and pass a resolution to the effect that there are no such farmers in existence. I confess that I fail to understand the present Republican policy. Their leaders have within easy reach most of the evidence on which we predicate the reëlection of Gov. Robinson. If they have made an impartial study of the facts, they must know that the Democrats are going to win. Even with this knowledge they might be excused if they boasted simply to keep up the courage of their followers. But among themselves, in secret, where the truth could do no harm, they declare that Cornell will certainly be elected. Now, if Robinson carries the State—as he will—by more than 20,000 plurality, these boasts of Cornell's friends will react on the Republican party and demoralize it to such an extent that it can make no fight in next year's Presidential canvass. If you lull your followers into a sense of false security and then are beaten, they will never trust you again."

"But why not look at it from the other point of view? Suppose Robinson should be defeated and Cornell elected, what effect would these preliminary boasts of Robinson's friends have on the Democratic cause?"

"A most disastrous effect, undoubtedly. If Robinson is defeated, the Democracy will retire from power in the State of New York for at least ten years to come. But he will not be defeated."

It is clear that my informant's hopes vitalized his opinions. But he speaks as one having authority, for he knows what Lucius Robinson thinks, and in forecasting the outcome of the election he fairly reflects the Governor's opinions.

Mr. Kelly's Situation.

The reason why Mr. KELLY has recently exhibited such a deplorable want of control over his temper is very succinctly expressed in the following extract from the New York *Times*; and we need not say that this able Republican journal is to be taken as a perfectly impartial witness upon the subject:

"The KELLY movement is breaking up in the very citadel of its power. Desperate attempts will doubtless be made to prevent the defeat of the Tammany county ticket, for only the success of the local nominations can save the leaders of the organization from political ruin. Between the wholesale trading of votes to help the county ticket and the stampede of voters who desert a lost cause, the nominee of the Shakespeare Hall Convention is likely to be left on election day with a very beggarly following."

This is perfectly true. It is true throughout this city and in every ward and district. The followers upon whom Mr. KELLY counted when he struck out in his frantic attempt to overthrow the Democratic party are leaving him. The local leaders of the Tammany organization are turning against him. The army upon which he relied to surround his banner is going over to the regular Democracy.

We do not attempt to predict the result of next Tuesday's election. While we lay before our readers all the means of information that are at our command, we feel ourselves entirely unable to determine with any confidence whether Gov. ROBINSON or Mr. CORNELL will have the greater number of votes. But one thing is sure, and that is that whether he succeeds in destroying the Democracy or not, JOHN KELLY as a politician has hopelessly destroyed himself.

A Chance to Return a Compliment.

Is there any Tammany Democrat in this town who does not yet understand what it is that Mr. JOHN KELLY asks him to do on Tuesday?

Every Democratic vote for Governor withheld from the regular nominee of the party and given to Mr. JOHN KELLY, the bolting candidate, will count for CORNELL. Every Democrat who follows Mr. KELLY's advice will help elect the Republican candidate.

In 1875, when Mr. CORNELL, as Chairman of the State Republican Executive Committee, was doing his utmost to deprive the Democrats of New York city of a fair representation in the Legislature, he sent out to the Prohibitionists of the rural districts a secret circular lithographed from his own handwriting. Here is the last paragraph of that circular:

"Feeling deeply impressed with the importance of preserving the State from the permanent control of a party *which is dependent for its support upon the ignorant and dissolute population of our great cities*, we appeal to you as a citizen interested in the moral elevation of our legislative representation to aid in securing a Republican Senate and Assembly at the approaching election.

"NEW YORK, Oct. 19, 1875. "A. B. CORNELL."

That was Mr. CORNELL's opinion in 1875 of the Democracy of New York city—an "ignorant and dissolute population."

If any Democrat of this town is anxious to pay special honor to Mr. CORNELL, he can do it, either by procuring and casting a straight Republican ballot, or by voting for KELLY, and thus helping to elect the author of the above sentiment.

Our Post Office and the English Post Office.

Our Post Office Department continues to cost the people more than it brings in. The deficiency to be made up out of the Treasury for the year ending the 1st of last July was over three millions of dollars. That is, the total revenues were $30,041,982 and the total expenses $33,073,437.

These figures we get from the report of the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department just handed in. They show an improvement in revenue compared to expenditures, which is to be explained rather by the increase in correspondence and in the use of the postal facilities due to the uprising of business, than by any wise and systematic economy in the management of the department by Erring Brother KEY. Since the advent of KEY, some measures of reform of the petty sort have been introduced; but they chiefly tend to produce annoyance among correspondents and add complexity to the work of the Post Office employees.

The report of the English Postmaster-General for 1878, lately issued, shows that the British postage and money order business was productive, last year, of $31,370,000, while the expenditure was $12,170,000 less. The total receipts of our Post Office Department for the year ending with last June, from stamps, stamped envelopes, postal cards, and fees on money orders, were $29,007,116. We had a revenue from box rents, not included in the English returns, of $1,381,162. The postage business of the two countries is therefore very nearly on a level, so far as the amount of revenues from these sources is concerned.

The English report gives us some very interesting facts and statistics. At the end of 1878 there were open 13,881 post offices; and the enormous growth of the postal business since the establishment of penny postage in 1840 is shown by the circumstance that whereas then there were only 4,028 places of deposit for letters, there are now 25,761.

Nearly 40,000,000 more letters, 9,000,000 more postal cards, 7,775,000 more book packets and circulars, and 2,337,000 more newspapers were delivered than in 1877. The increase in correspondence of all kinds was hard on 60,000,000, an average of 45 letters per head of the population. Actual counting shows that a day's work in the East Central District office of London consists of one million letters, and the largest number of letters and mail packages of all sorts received daily by any one firm or company in London is about 3,000. The average number of letters, exclusive of postal cards, books, and newspapers, delivered yearly per head was in the London postal district, 72; in the Liverpool, 43; in England and Wales, 37; in Scotland, 28; in Ireland, 14; in the United Kingdom, 32.

The postal telegraph forwarded during the year nearly 25,000,000 messages, over 11,000,000 of which passed through the Central Telegraph office in England. Nearly 286 millions of words of news were delivered to the newspapers, clubs, &c. The Postal Savings Bank had 1,892,756 depositors at the end of the year, and the amount to their credit was the vast sum of $152,057,815, the average balance to the credit of each open account being over $80.

The Study of Chinese at Harvard.

It is hard to see on what substantial grounds the plan of daily instruction in the Chinese Mandarin language has been introduced at Harvard. Such a scheme will doubtless attract public attention to the university, but the reasons given for the experiment will scarcely bear examination.

As regards the scope of the proposed tuition, we are not told whether it includes both the colloquial speech employed by the *literati* (of whom the Mandarins are merely the most accomplished and successful members), and also the written characters which form the vehicle of the classic literature. Probably the range of study contemplates both subjects, though of the two the written tongue, we need not say, presents far greater difficulties. A man, indeed, may be well versed in the colloquial use of the Mandarin idiom, yet before he can see his way through the native literature, he must become familiar with a considerable proportion of the forty or fifty thousand characters employed in books; apart, moreover, from the multitude of graphic signs, there has been a great diversity in the modes of writing the same, some authors enumerating as many as thirty-six different styles, with seven or eight of which an acquaintance is indispensable. It follows that, for a foreigner, a knowledge of the literary medium adequate to the purpose of current reading, or of translation, is the work of very many years, if not of a whole lifetime. Such an undertaking can receive but slight assistance from a limited number of college lectures, and really demands the manifold aids and appliances inseparable from a residence in China itself.

If a student, however, means to devote his life to an interpretation of the Confucian philosophy, or to a revelation of the earlier Chinese annals, which undoubtedly rank next to the Egyptian in antiquity and mysterious interest, he may as well, perhaps, make a beginning at Cambridge as elsewhere. But for any other purpose except that of original research and faithful reproduction, his arduous and protracted labors will be as good as wasted. Except professional sinologues, few persons are aware how considerable a part of the Chinese literature is already accessible in French or English versions. Thanks to PAUTHIER and DE MAILLA, to LEGGE, MEDHURST, and others, the most distinguished and authentic works of Chinese philosophers and historians have been translated with literal or with essential accuracy. It is now well nigh as easy to reach in this way the real pith and kernel of the truths and facts imbedded in the literature of the Middle Kingdom as it is in the case of Hellenic and Roman authors. And here we may remind our Harvard friends of EMERSON's remark, that, considering the vastness of the knowable, and the brevity of life, he would no more think of reading a Latin or Greek book in the original, if an English version were at hand, than of swimming the Charles River when he could cross it by a bridge.

So much for the project of tuition in the written word of China. Now as to the practical advantages held up as likely to flow from an acquaintance with the [illegible] speech idiom of the *literati*. These appear upon close scrutiny to be quite insignificant. The pretext, for instance, of furthering the Protestant propaganda may be easily disposed of. As was recently pointed out in the *Fortnightly Review*, English and American missionaries cannot count a single convert among the *literati* nor *à fortiori* among the Mandarins. This is not due to an ignorance of the tongue spoken by the upper classes, for this in many cases has been acquired, but because Christianity finds it as difficult to overthrow Confucianism and its purely ethical teaching as to draw recruits at home from the followers of COMTE and HERBERT SPENCER. Equally illusory is the notion that a course of instruction at Harvard in the Mandarin language will qualify or assist young Americans to enter the customs service of China. Granting that such a vocation would be desirable in itself, it must very soon be closed to foreigners. It is true enough that the Mandarin tongue is employed by all the native officials in Chinese ports, and that heretofore the services of Europeans have been turned to account in organizing and launching the customs department. But those who know something of Chinese procedure can readily estimate how long this state of things will last. The natives will deal with the customs as they have with the coastwise steamers and other Western novelties; they will use the barbarian just so long as he can teach them anything, and then toss him aside like an old glove. By the time the Harvard student manages to acquire the rudiments of the Mandarin speech it will be too late to astonish the native officials of treaty ports by a stammering recital of what he knows about custom houses. As for the wisdom of expending much time and industry, with a view of occupying a post in some American Consulate within the bounds of the Middle Kingdom, that is a matter which calls for no debate under the existing system of appointments in our civil service.

Another practical object which it is urged will be attained by the new experiment at Harvard, is more specious, and might easily mislead a student unacquainted with the conditions under which foreign trade with China is more and more tending to be transacted. It is true enough that the Mandarin speech, though unintelligible to all except the *literati* in Canton and other cities south of the Yang-Tse, is understood by the trading class, being, in fact, their native dialect, in Shanghai, Tientsin, and the more northerly ports. But it is certain that a knowledge of the Mandarin language in Shanghai, or of the Cantonese dialect in Canton, would be of no benefit whatever to the American merchant. All his buying and selling must be done by native brokers, while the native accountant is equally indispensable; in fact, in all the great houses, banking or mercantile, the financial affairs of the concern are in Chinese hands. Moreover, the whole business of trading with foreign countries is being rapidly monopolized by native enterprise. Year by year foreigners are retiring from the Celestial Empire, frankly confessing that the Chinese are too much for them. It is not only that the natives are absorbing the means of transport, that they have bought out the American line of coastwise steamers, that they run the only line from Hong Kong to Bangkok, and that from the Siamese city to Singapore, and thence to Rangoon, the lion's share of the whole traffic is grasped by Chinese steamers. There are likewise in the treaty ports Chinese banks, insurance companies, boards of trade, and divers other concerns, all under native management, and supported by native capital. There are Chinese importers and exporters, having their agencies in London and Marseilles, in San Francisco and New York, so that they can carry through any desired business without calling in a middleman. Since they came to the front all foreigners have naturally suffered, for the reason that the new competitor could beat every one of them in the ability to get along with scanty profits. The present and prospective state of things was described not long ago by a Chinese official much as follows: "Englishman and Melican man come here makee big pidgeon; bimeby long come German man, eatee up Englishman and Melican man; Chinaman come now, he makee eat up German man; sometime you makee see Chinaman eatee everyting." There is every reason to believe that the prediction will be fulfilled, and that the process of fulfilment has already gone too far for a course of Chinese teaching at Harvard to greatly further the commercial schemes of aspiring young Americans.

Copyright in England.

The most striking feature of the Copyright bill, which has just been brought forward by the Government in England, and is expected to become a law during the next session of Parliament, is the marked advance which it promises toward a fuller recognition of the rights of authors, dramatists, composers, and artists. The progress in this direction, though slow, has been steady for more than half a century. At the beginning of this century, copyright in published works was still governed by the statute of ANNE which was passed in 1710, and was not finally repealed till 1842. In 1774 the House of Lords, sitting as a judicial tribunal, decided that this statute had taken away all common law rights in printed books, and the effect of this decision was to reduce the duration of copyright from perpetuity to the period named by the statute, which was fourteen years absolute, with a contingent term of the same length. The act of ANNE granted the right of printing books only. It did not embrace works of art, or mention musical compositions, or secure the right of dramatic representation. It is true that the courts decided that a sheet of music was a book within the meaning of the law, and that prints and engravings were protected by another statute passed in 1735. An act was also passed in 1798 designed to secure copyright in sculpture. But this, as Lord ELLENBOROUGH said, seemed "to have been framed with a view to defeat its own object."

Literary property, then, early in this century, was a very limited right, both as to the duration of ownership and the things in which it was recognized. In both of these respects its scope has, from time to time, been greatly enlarged. The absolute term of protection was extended to twenty-eight years in 1814, and to forty-two years in 1842. Statutes have been passed for the protection of sculpture, paintings, drawings, photographs, and other works of art; dramatists have been secured in the right of representing their productions; musical compositions have been expressly brought within the operation of the statute; copyright in periodicals has been secured and defined; certain rights have been granted to lecturers, and protection on specified conditions has been extended to foreign authors. Notwithstanding these gains, the copyright system of England has serious defects, and is, therefore, in urgent need of reform. The statutes are numerous, loosely drawn, and sometimes conflicting. By their ambiguity or silence on many important points, they have given rise to judicial doubts and disagreements which render the meaning of the law uncertain, and to judicial fallacies which deprive authors of valuable rights.

The bill now before the public is intended to work important reforms both in the form and the substance of the law. It brings into one statute the entire subject of copyright in works of literature, art, the drama, and music, and it secures uniformity in place of the marked diversity which now exists among the several classes of productions which are the subject of copyright. It will settle many questions which have arisen under the existing statutes; but several important defects in the form of the present law, which in time must lead to perplexing litigation, have been inexcusably overlooked and copied by the framers of the bill.

The proposed changes in the substance of the law will materially enlarge the right of literary property, not only with respect to the duration of ownership, but also in the extent of the rights secured. The term of protection named in the bill is during the life of the author and thirty years after his death, which, in most cases, will be a considerably longer period than that for which copyright is now granted. The bill recognizes the theory that literary property should secure to the owner, at least during the statutory term of protection, all the public uses to which his production may be put for the purpose of profit. It proceeds on the principle that if an author has produced a work which may be abridged or translated with profit, he alone is entitled to whatever may be gained by such use of it; and that if he has written a novel which is also valuable for purposes of dramatization, the profits of its stage representation rightly belong to him. As the law now stands, these important rights of abridgment, translation, and dramatization are not fully recognized as a part of literary property. The English statutes are silent on these points, and the decisions of the courts afford little encouragement to men of letters. The proposed law declares that the unlicensed abridgment, translation, or dramatization of a copyrighted work shall be treated as piracy.

At present an Englishman loses his copyright by first publishing his work in a foreign country, or even in the British dominions outside of the United Kingdom. In other words, first publication, or, what is equivalent, contemporary publication, in the United Kingdom is an essential condition of obtaining copyright. The bill gives to a subject the privilege of first publishing abroad, and provides that he may secure English copyright by republishing anywhere in the British dominions within three months after foreign publication. Material advantages are also extended to foreign authors. Heretofore protection has been denied to an alien unless resident within the British dominions at the time his work is first published in the United Kingdom. It is now proposed to give copyright to foreign authors wherever resident, on the simple condition of first or contemporaneous publication in the British dominions. These provisions are independent of any special arrangement for international copyright that may be made with any foreign Government.

The law relating to copyright in newspapers is now uncertain. Newspapers are not mentioned in any existing statute, but there is no reason why the acts of Parliament should not be construed to embrace them as books or periodicals. The question is, however, left in doubt by judicial decisions. The bill expressly extends copyright to "original compositions of a literary character" first published in a newspaper, but not to mere news. Important changes are also made in the law relating to dramatic and musical compositions and works of art and in the law providing for international copyright treaties with foreign Governments.

Zachariah Chandler.

Probably no Republican politician was more conspicuous before the people than the Senator from Michigan who died suddenly of apoplexy at Chicago yesterday morning at the age of 65 years.

Mr. CHANDLER became prominent as a Republican Senator from Michigan in 1857. In that capacity he served eighteen years, going out of office in 1875, when he was appointed Secretary of the Interior under GRANT. He was returned to the Senate again for the fourth time last winter, succeeding Mr. CHRISTIANCY.

Mr. CHANDLER was a man of limited education but great enthusiasm, ardent feeling, and tremendous energy in everything that he undertook. His impulses were wholly patriotic, and it was this fact that gave him his hold upon the popular mind; yet he was so entirely a partisan that he could not admit that there could be any good outside of the party to which he belonged. His conception of politics was not elevated, and his methods were often coarse. To carry his end he was willing to employ any means. In the Electoral Fraud which put HAYES into office when Mr. TILDEN had been elected, Mr. CHANDLER was as active as he was unscrupulous. Other men, perhaps, went deeper into it than he; but his connection with this conspiracy against free government must forever remain as a dark blot upon his name.

Where the Responsibility Will Rest.

If Mr. CORNELL is elected Governor, the responsibility will rest on JOHN KELLY and Tammany Hall.

The Republicans all proclaim now that the great importance of the election lies in the influence it will exert on the Presidential election next year. If CORNELL becomes Governor, they feel morally certain of carrying the State for the Republican nominee for President in 1880.

Now, who is giving this vantage ground to the Republicans?

JOHN KELLY and Tammany Hall.

With what consistency, then, can JOHN KELLY boast of his Democracy, and of the Democracy of Tammany Hall? Is he a Democrat who slays the Democratic party, who strangles it both in the State and in the Union?

The mass of Tammany Democrats must know better. Let them show it by voting for that tried and true Democrat, the regular Democratic candidate, LUCIUS ROBINSON.

Notwithstanding Gov. ROBINSON's *authoritative denial, a large edition of a Tammany illustrated paper will be sent over the State to-day and Monday charging him with having been a Know-Nothing. The charge is false, and its reiteration in this way on the eve of election shows the degree of desperation to which the Republicans are reduced.*

This is an important week. It is big with the fate of free institutions on this continent. Its influence, for good or evil, will be felt after the youngest man who drops a ballot in the box next Tuesday shall have been gathered to his fathers. The Gettysburg week itself was not more important.

If the Ute chiefs prove to be unwilling or unable to comply with the demands made upon them, Congress, when it meets, will find another Indian war under headway. That the failure of the negotiations has been discounted in high military quarters is shown by the order requiring all officers of the Department of the Missouri absent on leave to rejoin their commands without delay.

A New York correspondent of the Indianapolis *Journal* relates that a friend of his "went one Sunday to the Unitarian church in Brooklyn, where the Rev. JOHN W. CHADWICK preaches. The sermon was on 'The Unprofitableness of Sin,' and in it Mr. CHADWICK took the ground that it never pays anybody, even in a worldly sense, to do wrong. He illustrated by quoting historic cases of distinguished malefactors. He instanced CATO and CALIGULA, JEFFRIES and BENEDICT ARNOLD, and, coming down to our own time, enriched his narrative with the names of Boss TWEED, JIM FISK, and SCHUYLER COLFAX."

These illustrations appear to have irritated the *Journal* correspondent's friend, and he climbed into the pulpit and asked permission "to make a little explanation concerning Mr. COLFAX"—which the minister, after deliberation, refused to grant. The Rev. Mr. CHADWICK acted in a sensible manner. No name could be found fitter to point a moral of the kind which the speaker was endeavoring to impress upon his hearers than that of SCHUYLER COLFAX.

Gov. BLACKBURN of Kentucky has been in office only two months, but in that time he has pardoned between fifty and one hundred persons sentenced to the State prison. More than that, he has given notice that all boys so sentenced will be pardoned as fast as they arrive in Frankfort—no matter what court sends them there. Some of the Kentucky newspapers having shown a disposition to find fault with this free use of the pardoning power, the Secretary of State publishes a letter on the subject. At this time, he says, there are 159 more convicts than cells in the prison. Of the 780 cells, 648 are 6 feet 8 inches long, 3 feet 9½ inches wide, and 6 feet 3½ inches high. Fancy putting two grown men into a cell of this size. No wonder that in the past ten months 62 convicts have died. The Governor visited the prison with three physicians, and was so shocked by what he saw that he pardoned out twelve sick convicts on the spot. As to the boys, the Governor thinks, and the Secretary agrees with him, that the lack of a reformatory to which to send them is a disgrace to Kentucky. As matters are, boys are sentenced to the penitentiary for offences that hardly deserve a heavier punishment than a sound birching. Even if the prison were what a prison should be, it would be no place for them; and, as long as he is Governor, Dr. BLACKBURN intends to see that they don't go there.

The Republicans of Queens County have nominated JOHN BIRDSALL as their candidate for Senator. JOHN BIRDSALL is a Custom House officer in the service of the United States. He has drawn pay as such within the last sixty days.

The Constitution of New York (Art. III., sec. 8) provides as follows:

"No person shall be eligible to the Legislature who at the time of his election is *or within one hundred days previous thereto* has been a member of Congress, a civil or military officer under the United States, or an officer under any city government."

JOHN BIRDSALL having been within one hundred days of the election of Tuesday next, a civil officer under the United States, is ineligible as a member of the Legislature of New York; and every vote cast for him becomes accordingly a void vote.

Mars, which next week becomes more brilliant than at any time since 1877, is now the most striking object in the sky, not even Jupiter excepted. Indeed, it almost equals Jupiter in apparent size. The rich ruddy color of Mars, unlike that of any other planet or star, serves to easily distinguish it, and adds greatly to its splendor. The present opportunity is being improved by astronomers in all parts of the world to catch a glimpse of Mars's two little moons. Before the discovery of these satellites by Prof. HALL in 1877,

The snowy poles of moonless Mars,

was a favorite line with some popular writers on astronomy. It is very curious that DEAN SWIFT in "Gulliver's Travels," and VOLTAIRE in "Micromegas," both assert that Mars has two moons, and back up this opinion with mock scientific arguments. There are some other queer facts about these moons. Astronomers cannot decide whether they are five miles or a hundred miles in diameter. The inner one, which is only about 3,600 miles from the surface of Mars, goes around the planet three times a day, or, in other words, travels through its whole orbit three times and a little over while the planet is turning about its axis once. The outer moon makes less than one revolution about the planet in the same time. So the inhabitants of Mars see one moon rising in the west, crossing the sky and setting in the east all within a space of about ten hours, while the other moon rises in the east and swings slowly westward, sometimes going through all the changes from new moon to full and from full to old moon between its rising and setting.

Unfortunately these curious satellites are entirely beyond the reach of small telescopes. It does not require a large instrument, however, to show, what is far more interesting, the shadowy outlines of the continents and oceans of Mars, and the glittering snow fields that cover the frozen regions about his poles, where it is easy to imagine some martial FRANKLIN and his crew, hemmed in by icebergs, and perhaps seeking a way of escape by steering toward that distant star the Earth, which they would see shining low down in their southern heavens. Mars has been carefully mapped, and names have been given to his continents, bays, and oceans, and so well are the main features of his surface known that, if a terrestrial astronomer could step across the fifty million miles of space that now separate us from this sister of the earth, and set his foot in "Herschel Land," he would need no mentor to tell him which way lay "Delarue Ocean," and what was the shortest cut to the "Straits of Kepler."

The dog appears to have been the only faithful watcher on the premises of the Ludlow street jail Friday night, and the dog fell a victim to his vigilance. It is clear that Ludlow street jail needs a larger number of dogs or more wide-awake keepers.

A rival of the rifleman Dr. CARVER has appeared in the person of another California medical man, Dr. RUTH, whose specialty seems to be that of shooting apples and cigars out of the mouths of such gentlemen as kindly offer their mouths for the purpose. There is evidently a fascination for riflemen in thus playing WILLIAM TELL, with variations and additions; but the experience of at least one recent victim has shown that setting up human targets for the display of marksmanship is hardly to be encouraged. It is true, however, that shooting an apple off a lad's head or out of a lady's mouth with a modern rifle is less dangerous than trying the same feat with bow and arrow. Perhaps we ought to be thankful that the archers of the period, who are enthusiastic over their prowess, do not insist on hiring small boys for the purpose of repeating the traditional apple feat of their Swiss exemplar.

CHARLES A. JACKSON has the united Democratic nomination, in the Tenth District, for Senator. He has not so much money as Mr. ASTOR, but he has a great deal more democracy. He would like also to have more votes; and we are inclined to think he deserves them.

Col. JOHN R. FELLOWS is running for Senator against FRANCIS M. BIXBY. He is as good in deeds as Mr. BIXBY, and a much better speaker.

OLIVER FISKE, who is running for the Assembly in Richmond County, is every way worthy of support.

"A vote for JOHN KELLY is a vote for CORNELL," says the Whitehall *Times*; and that is the situation in a nutshell.

The Catholics and John Kelly.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Allow me, please, to say that there is nothing to fear in this section from the influence of what is called the Catholic press of New York that misrepresents us at this critical time. The *Freeman's Journal* is looked upon as the growling of an erratic, captious man, and the *Tablet* is so stale no one looks at it hereabouts. The Republicans have been distributing them here in the interest of Cornell, but have been snubbed every time. The conduct of these and other sheets claiming to represent Irish Catholics are unpardonable falsifiers of the truth, and cannot justify their action in any way.

Every man with a drop of Irish blood in his veins should see that the traitor John Kelly does not carry them into bondage. Respectfully, &c.,

OGDENSBURG, Oct. 30. JAMES E. KELLY.

A Challenge to American Bicyclists.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As my object in coming to this country with the English and French Bicycle team was to demonstrate, if possible, our superiority upon the iron horse against man and horse, and as I have so far found but few American competitors willing to try to lower our colors, and as I wish to bring out the best, I now, through the medium of THE SUN's columns, beg to offer the following challenge:

I will match the Englishmen and Frenchman—Messrs. Keen, Stanton, Cann, and Terront—either collectively or individually, against any team or single persons in this big country, to compete in a race at any distance from one mile up to two or three thousand, for any purse or prize from $500 to $2,000. To give our cousins an equal chance, I will handicap my team, singly or collectively, to give all-comers from 75 to 150 or 200 miles start in a six days' race; the races to be contested in any large city in the United States where a suitable building and good track can be found. Or I will match my team, singly or collectively, against any one or two riders upon horses, number of horses to be determined upon according to distance or duration of race.

HARRY ETHERINGTON, *Bicycling Times*, London, Eng.
BOSTON, Oct. 30.

Timothy a Teetotaler.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the article in THE SUN of the 28th inst. on "Talmage's Glass of Wine," I read, "Like Timothy, they believe in a little wine for the stomach's sake."

But I read in Paul's First Epistle to Timothy, chap. 5, v. 23, that Paul says to Timothy: "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake."

From which we may infer that Timothy believed in cold water and was a teetotaler, but that Paul believed in a little wine. CAP'N CUTTLE.

Drinking Cups Wanted.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Has the city treasury run down so low that they cannot afford to put drinking cups at the fountains of the city parks? There is none in the City Hall Park. It is a great convenience for the people to get a drink of water in the parks. If there are no cups, what are the people to drink out of? A COLD WATER MAN.

Charles De Young Indicted.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 1.—The Grand Jury have found a true bill of assault with intent to murder against Charles De Young of the *Chronicle*, based on his assault on the Rev. I. S. Kalloch.

SUNBEAMS.

—There is said to be a difficulty as to the title to the Brooklyn Rink which Brother Fulton's Church has bought. But there is hope that by the aid of some of his good financial brethren, Dr. Fulton will be able to remove this little difficulty. Dr. Fulton's congregations are said to be increasing.

—Another massacre of Protestant missionaries has taken place in Mexico. It was at Tuluco, fifty miles from the City of Mexico. One man was first hacked in a barbarous manner and then hanged on a tree, where his body remained all night. Others were put to death with various ingenuities of cruelty. Such things are almost as discouraging to missionaries as were the old customs of the Cannibal Islanders.

—John B. Gough said on Thursday evening, at his reception, that Charles H. Spurgeon is a thorough abstainer from all kinds of alcoholic stimulants. Spurgeon formerly drank beer to some extent, but of late years has relinquished it. Spurgeon used to decline to work with the temperance men, because he thought there were so many infidels among them. He has now overcome his scruples in this respect and throws his influence heartily into the temperance reform.

—The good women of Talmage's Tabernacle did such an immense business at their fair that they kept it open until late last night, instead of closing on Friday evening, as they had expected to. The clearing away of the fixtures and the temporary flooring is heavy work, but by putting a large force on it everything will be made ready for this morning's service. The profits of the fair are not yet accurately reckoned up, but the returns now in sufficiently indicate a very handsome sum, which will be applied to the liquidation of the debt on the Tabernacle.

—Evangelist Kennion continues his "assaults on the devil." He will to-day hold forth to the assembled multitude at Roosevelt Ferry and then move upon those who may be gathered at the Five Points. He promises to unfurl the standard of the cross on the citadel of ignorance, superstition, and infidelity, and to prepare people to be good citizens, consistent Christians, and exemplary church members. In this warfare against Satan, Dr. Kennion goes on his own hook, and at his own charges. He scorns a salary, refuses collections, and seems pleased to pay out of his own pocket.

—Next Sunday begins a "Week of Prayer" for young men, in the interest of the Young Men's Christian Associations. Special sermons are to be preached by such pastors as are sufficiently interested in the cause to respond to the request of the International Committee. Subjects are given out for discussion on each day of the week, so as to keep the brethren who make addresses from digressing too widely. It is estimated that the evangelical work of the Young Men's Christian Associations reaches 800,000 railroad men, 60,000 college students, and 100,000 commercial travellers. It is also officially stated that work is being done for the benefit of 500,000 who speak the German language alone, and of 500,000 young colored men.

—The Presbytery of Wooster, which drove out the Rev. Mr. Alcott because he believed salvation was to be offered to everybody, now has the satisfaction of seeing him received into the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In this new relation he is free to preach the doctrines of universal and free salvation to all who will accept them. As formerly circumstanced, he was tied down to the comparatively narrow limit of "the elect," or those whom God is supposed to have appointed from all eternity to be saved. There are many more ministers still in the Presbyterian Church who hold the doctrine of free and unrestricted salvation to all who will believe. And there is much wondering what the Presbyteries will do with these men if it shall be deemed best to lay hold of any of them and try them for heresy.

—The Rev. Jo Cook breakfasts at 7, and then seeks seclusion in his study until 2. Then he dines, and after dinner receives callers. In the afternoon he takes a walk for exercise, generally consuming about an hour. After this exercise he dictates letters to his wife, who is his amanuensis. For his supper Mr. Cook has a slice of bread and a glass of milk. After this repast he reads and writes until 10, and then goes to bed. This is his routine when at home, and he observes it with the regularity of clock work. When away from home on lecture tours he keeps it up, as nearly as circumstances will allow. Even when in railroad cars or steamboats he endeavors to begin his morning study at 8 o'clock. His habits of concentration are so great that he can read and write in a car or a crowd without being disturbed by the jabber of the people around him. Mr. Cook has made arrangements to deliver another course of lectures in Boston, which will occupy him for the coming winter.

—During the recent sessions of the Presbyterian Synod of Albany the expediency of the abolition of Synods was discussed to some extent. Many of the brethren thought the Synod so useless and unprofitable that it might as well be dispensed with. Others urged its great value for the trial of local ecclesiastical disputes and scandals which otherwise would have to go to the General Assembly. The fact is that Synod, which is composed of several Presbyteries, is a sort of stepping stone or half-way house between Presbytery and Assembly. Most of the business which is transacted is of no importance whatever, being only a ratification of the doings of Presbytery, or else a refusal to ratify them. It is only when there is a judicial case on hand, or a quarrel of some kind, that Synod is at all interesting. Most of its members attend by reason of their solemn sense of duty. The proceedings generally have little or nothing in them to lighten this solemnity. One of the best things that can be said of them is that they are generally very short and soon done with.

—To-day's Sunday school lesson is on "The Perfect Pattern" which is pictured in the character of Jesus Christ as set forth by the Apostle Peter. The passage to be studied is in the First Epistle of Peter, chapter 2, verses 19-25. The example of patience given in this lesson is far above that which is attained by ordinary mortals, whether Sunday school children or adult professors of religion. The conduct of Jesus Christ was in striking contrast with that which even the best of us exhibit under provocation. His life was sinless and without guile. Though reviled and threatened and insulted, he took no vengeful action in return for the indignities heaped upon him. In the last verse of this lesson Christ is said to be the Shepherd and Bishop of those who go astray and want to return. There is hope in this for all sinners and backsliders. Although we cannot live lives of perfect sinlessness, but are, on the contrary, sinning all the time, we find him our care-taker and guide, receiving us when penitent, pardoning our guilt, and granting strength to obey the commandments of God.

—The McKendree Southern Methodist Church at Nashville was unfortunate in being called a "model church" and in having a very high wooden steeple. When it caught fire last Sunday night the steeple broke in two and its blazing remains fell on a neighbor's house, causing him a loss of about $10,000. The model church is a complete wreck. It cost $40,000, and was insured for $25,000. The steeple, which was far above the reach of the streams of water from the engines, served as fireworks for the whole neighborhood. Cinders were carried by the wind to many shingle-roofed houses within half a mile, and for some time these houses were in great danger of destruction. The next model church that is built should have a fire-proof steeple. If no materials are at hand for the building of an incombustible spire, the part which must be made of wood should be so rigged that it can be lowered in a moment and telescoped inside of the stone turret which supports it. Thus it can be taken out of harm's way in case of fire, and prevented from acting as an incendiary to the disadvantage of other properties in the vicinity.

—The result of mission work in Japan is described by a writer as exceedingly satisfactory. Ten years ago there were less than ten converts there; no church organized, no native agency, no schools for the training of such an agency, no missionary devoted to preaching, only the scantiest Christian literature, and that derived from China; placards everywhere denouncing the very name of Christian, till the utterance of the word blanched the face and sent a thrill of horror through the listener. To-day more than two thousand five hundred professed believers in Christ; a recognized evangelical community three times larger; a fine body of earnest and native preachers; Christian schools for the preparation of a native ministry; a Christian literature, including more than one hundred thousand copies of portions of the New Testament; editions of the "Life of Christ" and other works, reckoned by thousands and finding a ready sale; a Christian newspaper that circulates in all parts of the empire; and, illustrating in their lives the faith that breathes through all, more than a hundred and sixty devoted men and women from Christian lands—these are facts to encourage the most vigorous exertions.

—Some of the religious papers are beginning to show much distress because of Edward Eggleston's preparation of an "Acting Play for Sunday Schools." Brother Eggleston has for a long time been working this play into the shape in which it is now announced to the world. It will probably be performed before many weeks in his own Lee Avenue Sunday school, in Brooklyn. A leading religious newspaper says that, while there will be nothing of an evil or immoral tendency in the play, the thing is foreign to the character and purpose of Sunday schools. It adds that "the Church has no more call to manufacture amusement than it has to enter into competition with any branch of husbandry or handicraft, and in our judgment, nothing but evil will result from the attempt." The churches and the Sunday school have provided a great deal of amusement for the children in the anniversary meetings and other entertainments which are held from time to time. The funny speeches of some of the Sunday school orators are as amusing as anything ever acted in a play. Even on missionary occasions, some of the chief speakers aim at making their speeches so funny as to keep the young folks in continual merriment. With these endeavors at mirth many jokes are introduced, some of which are so poor that they would not pass muster in a circus. At a recent missionary meeting in a brown stone church of this city, one of the speakers told how a shark had bitten off the leg of a young Pacific Islander, who was swimming beyound the surf. The youthful Islander, who happened to be a convert, then swam to shore, leaving behind him the leg the shark had stolen. This narration was received by the Sunday school children with thrilling interest. Eggleston's play is not likely to contain anything half as objectionable as this sort of harangue.